## U.S. Embassy Ljubljana, Slovenia

Security Message for U.S. Citizens

Increased Vigilance: Protests in Slovenia

November 28, 2012

The U.S. Embassy informs U.S. citizens of the possibility of continued protests throughout Slovenia in the coming days. During a protest in Maribor on November 26<sup>th</sup> 2012, stones and other objects were thrown at Slovene authorities. The authorities responded, including using tear gas to disperse parts of the crowd. The Maribor protests were followed by a gathering in Ljubljana's Kongresni Trg on November 27<sup>th</sup> that drew more than 750 participants. There was a significant police presence at the site, firecrackers were reportedly thrown, and the night ended with several arrests. The media is reporting that protests are planned for Ljubljana on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, with participants expected to gather in Kongresni Trg before possibly moving towards government buildings. Press reports also indicate that a protest is scheduled to take place in Kranj on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and further gatherings may occur in Celje on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Maribor on December 6<sup>th</sup> along with yet unscheduled events in Murska Sobota and Koper.

We encourage all U.S. citizens to exercise common sense security measures. Be cautious if you must enter areas where you may be a target of crime or violence. Avoid public demonstrations, as even those gatherings intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to local news media.

Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States or a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 for callers from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). You can also stay up to date by bookmarking our Bureau of Consular Affairs website, which contains the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts as well as the Worldwide Caution. Follow the Bureau of Consular Affairs on Facebook as well. We strongly encourage U.S. citizens living or traveling in Slovenia to register with the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to obtain updated information on travel and security within Slovenia. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly at the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana.

The <u>U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana</u> is located at Presernova 31. The American Citizens Services Unit telephone number is (386) 1-200-5595. For after-hours emergencies, the number is (386) 1-200-5500.